

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 6, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

wherein the base plate portion includes a nail hole (or holes) and a screw hole (or holes) through which a nail (or nails) and a screw (or screws) are respectively pierced for fixing the fastening member to the framework, and

4B1 wherein the nail hole (or holes) and the screw hole (or holes) are provided at position at which a distance from the nail hole (or holes) to the support portion and a distance from the screw hole (or holes) to the support portion are substantially equal.

It is a notable point of the present invention that the nail hole (or holes) and the screw hole (or holes) are provided at position at which a distance from the nail hole (or holes) to the support portion and a distance from the screw hole (or holes) to the support portion are substantially equal. That is, a vertical distance A from a central plane of the support portion to the nail hole (or holes) and a vertical distance B from the central plane of the support portion to the screw hole (or holes) are substantially equal (see Fig. 2(B)).

On page 13, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 18 as follows:

4B2 It is preferable that the upper abutting portion and the lower abutting portion include an abutting surface that is substantially ~~horizontal~~ parallel to the central plate portion (see Figs. 1 and 11).

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 as follows:

4B3 wherein the base plate portion includes ~~a nail hole~~ nail holes and ~~a screw hole~~ screw holes through which ~~a nail~~ nails and ~~a screw~~ screws for fixing the fastening member to the framework are pierced and that are disposed at positions at which a distance from the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes to the support portion and a distance from the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes to the support portion become substantially equal,

On page 16, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 6 as follows:

YBB
com
wherein the fastening member is arranged such that the nail ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion with the ~~nail being~~ nails being fixed while being pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes in case of that the fastening member is fixed to the framework by ~~the nail~~ the nails, and

On page 16, please rewrite the paragraph beginning line 11 as follows:

YBB
wherein the fastening member is arranged such that the screw ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion with the ~~screw being~~ screws being fixed while being pierced through the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes in case of that the fastening member is fixed to the framework by ~~the screw~~ the screws.

On page 16, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 16 as follows:

YBB
The ~~screw hole~~ screw holes of the above fastening member ~~is formed~~ are formed downward of the support portion. Thus, when performing fixing by ~~the screw~~ the screws, the direction of the fastening member is turned upside down. In this case, the upper board engaging portion will engage the lower siding board while the lower board engaging portion will engage the upper siding board (see Fig. 6).

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 as follows:

YBB
In the siding boards attachment structure, the distances from the support portion to ~~the nail~~ the nails and to ~~the screw~~ the screws are substantially equal, in the cases of that fastening member is fixed by ~~the nail~~ the nails and that the fastening member is fixed by ~~the screw~~ the screws.

On page 23, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

YBB
a first process of fixing a fastening member at a lowermost stage of the siding boards attachment structure to a framework with an underlayment being interposed between by a ~~nail~~ the nails or ~~a screw~~ the screws,

On page 23, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

YBA Conf a third process of disposing another fastening member to an upper rabbeted horizontal edge of the siding board and fixing the fastening member to the framework with the underlayment being interposed between by ~~a nail~~ the nails or ~~a screw~~ the screws.

On page 23, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 26 and ending on page 24 line 5 as follows:

YBA wherein in case of that nails are used in the first process and third process, the nail ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion for engaging the fastening member to a lower siding board and the ~~nail is~~ nails are pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes for fixing the fastening member to the framework with the underlayment being interposed between,

On page 24, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 6 as follows:

YBA while in case of that screws are used in the first process and third process, the screw ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion for engaging the fastening member to a lower siding board and the ~~screw is~~ screws are pierced through the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes for fixing the fastening member to the framework with the underlayment being interposed between.

On page 24, please rewrite the paragraph beginning line 12 as follows:

YBA It is a notable point of the method of attaching siding boards that in case of that the fastening member is fixed by nails in the first process and third process, the nail ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion while the screw ~~hole is~~ holes are disposed upward of the support portion in case of that the fastening member is fixed by screws.

On page 24, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

YBA Thus, in case of that the screw ~~hole is~~ holes are provided downward of the support portion, that is, on an opposite side of the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes, the direction of the fastening member needs to be turned upside down when fixing is performed with ~~the screw~~ the screws

in contrast to a case in which fixing is performed with ~~the nail~~ the nails. In this case, the upper board engaging portion will engage the lower siding board and the lower board engaging portion will engage the upper siding board.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 24 line 26 and ending on page 25 line

3 as follows:

The positional relationship of ~~the nail~~ the nails and ~~the screw~~ the screws from the support portion will be substantially identical, when ~~the nail~~ the nails and ~~the screw~~ the screws is used. Thus the fixing force of the fastening member to the framework will be stable.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 25 line 22 and ending on page 26 line

1 as follows:

It should be noted that as mentioned above, the following explanations will be made supposing that a side of the fastening member 1 itself on which ~~a nail hole 18 is formed~~ the nail holes 18 are formed is an "upper" portion and the opposite side is a "lower" portion, when viewed from the support portion, for defining respective names of portions.

On page 26, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 21 as follows:

The base plate portion 11 includes ~~a nail hole~~ the nail holes 18 and ~~a screw hole~~ the screw holes 19 for piercing ~~a nail~~ the nails 41 and ~~a screw~~ the screws 42, respectively, through for fixing the fastening member 1 to the framework with the underlayment 3 being interposed between.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 26 line 25 and ending on page 27 line

5 as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. 2(B), the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 and the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 are provided at positions where distances from the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 and the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 to the support portion 12 are substantially equal. More particularly, a

Vertical distance A from a central plane of the support portion 12 to the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18
and a vertical distance B from the central plane of the support portion 12 to the ~~screw hole~~
screw holes 19 are substantially equal.

On page 28, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

As illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, in case of that the fastening member 1 is fixed to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between by ~~the nail~~ the nails 41, the nail hole 18 is holes 18 are disposed upward of the support portion 12 and the ~~nail 41 is~~ nails 41 are pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 and driven in an oblique downward direction for fixing.

On page 28, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

On the other hand, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, in case of that the fastening member 1 is fixed to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between by ~~the screw~~ the screws 42, the ~~screw hole 19 is~~ screw holes 19 are disposed upward of the support portion 12 and the ~~screw 42 is~~ screws 42 are pierced through the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 and screwed in a horizontal direction for fixing.

On page 32, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

In case of that the fastening member 1 is fixed to the underlayment 3 by ~~the nail~~ the nails 41, the nail hole 18 is holes 18 are disposed upward of the support portion 12 and the ~~nail 41 is~~ nails 41 are pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 for driving ~~the nail~~ the nails 41 in an oblique downward direction for fixing the fastening member 1 to the sill 32 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between as illustrated in Fig. 8.

On page 32, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 15 as follows:

On the other hand, in case of that the fastening member 1 is fixed to the underlayment 3 by ~~the screw~~ the screws 42, the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 is are disposed on upward of the support portion 12 and ~~the screw 42 is~~ the screws 42 are pierced through the ~~screw hole~~

B21
B22
C01
J11
screw holes 19 for screwing ~~the screw~~ the screws 42 in a horizontal direction for fixing the fastening member 1 to the sill 32 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between (see Figs. 5 and 6).

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 33 line 19 and ending on page 34 line

1 as follows:

2.1
K.3
B22
As illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, in case of fixing the fastening member 1 to the underlayment 3 by ~~a nail~~ the nails 41, the nail ~~hole 18 is~~ holes 18 are disposed upward of the support portion 12 and the fastening member 1 is engaged at the upper rabbeted horizontal edge 21 of the lower siding board 2. That is, the upper rabbeted horizontal edge 21 of the lower siding board 2 is inserted into space formed by the base plate portion 11, the support portion 12, and the lower board engaging portion 14 of the fastening member 1.

On page 34, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

2321
B21
The ~~nail 41 is~~ nails 41 are then pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 and driven in an oblique downward direction for fixing the fastening member 1 to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between.

On page 34, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

2.2
B23
B24
On the other hand, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, in case of fixing the fastening member 1 to the underlayment 3 by ~~a screw~~ the screws 42, the screw ~~hole 19 is~~ holes 19 are disposed upward of the support portion 12 and the fastening member 1 is engaged at the upper rabbeted horizontal edge 21 of the lower siding board 2. That is, the direction of the fastening member 1 is turned upside down in contrast to the above-described case in which fixing is performed by using the nail 41 (Figs. 3 and 4).

On page 35, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 7 as follows:

B2B The ~~screw 42 is~~ screws 42 are then pierced through the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 and screwed in a horizontal direction for fixing the fastening member 1 to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 35 line 23 and ending on page 36 line 5 as follows:

B2C In the above fastening member 1, the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 and the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 are disposed at positions where a distance from the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 to the support portion 12 and a distance from the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19 to the support portion 12 become substantially equal (Figs. 2(A), 2(B)). Thus, hardly any differences are caused in fixing force of the upper siding board 2 against load or wind pressure in case of fixing the fastening member 1 by ~~the nail~~ the nails 41 (Figs. 3 and 4) and the case of fixing the fastening member 1 by ~~the screw~~ the screws 42 (Figs. 5 and 6).

On page 36, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 6 as follows:

B2D Thus, hardly any differences are caused in fastening force of the siding boards 2 when constructing the siding boards attachment structure 7 by fixing the fastening member 1 by using either ~~the nail~~ the nails 41 or ~~the screw~~ the screws 42. In other words, hardly any differences are caused in fixing force of the upper siding board 2, no matter whether the siding boards attachment structure 7 is constructed by fixing the fastening members 1 using only nails 41 or the siding boards attachment structure 7 is constructed by fixing the fastening members 1 using only screws 42.

On page 38, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 7 as follows:

B2E Since the upper rising portion 113 includes a sloped portion 17 on which the ~~nail hole~~ nails 18 are formed, ~~the nail~~ the nails 41 may be pierced through the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 to be driven into an oblique downward direction with respect to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between (Fig. 4). Thus, the fastening member 1 may be

Application No. 09/930,212

Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2003

reliably fixed to the stud 31 with the underlayment 3 being interposed between and further be
reliably engaged to the lower siding board 2.

On page 42, please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

When using the fastening member 100 with the ~~nail hole~~ nail holes 18 being
positioned above the support portion 12, the fastening member 100 may be fitted to the siding
board by lightly hitting the protruding portion 101 formed at the upper abutting portion 111.

On the other hand, when using the fastening member 100 with the ~~screw hole~~ screw holes 19
being positioned above the support portion 12, the fastening member 100 may be fitted to the
siding board by lightly hitting the protruding portion 102 formed at the lower abutting portion
112.